

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
UTILITIES COMMISSION  
RALEIGH**

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1190  
DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1185  
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 90

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

DOCKET NO. E-2, SUB 1190	)	
	)	
In the Matter of	)	
Application by Duke Energy Progress,	)	
LLC, for Approval of Renewable	)	
Advantage Rider	)	
	)	
DOCKET NO. E-7, SUB 1185	)	
	)	ORDER APPROVING
In the Matter of	)	RENEWABLE ADVANTAGE
Application by Duke Energy Carolinas,	)	RIDER AND NC GREENPOWER
LLC, for Approval of Renewable	)	PROGRAM CHANGES
Advantage Rider	)	
	)	
DOCKET NO. E-100, SUB 90	)	
	)	
In the Matter of	)	
Investigation of Voluntary Green and	)	
Public Benefit Check-Off Programs –	)	
NC GreenPower	)	

BY THE COMMISSION: On November 20, 2018, Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (collectively, Duke), individually filed applications in the above-referenced dockets for approval of a new tariff called the Renewable Advantage Program Rider (Renewable Advantage tariff), as well as proposed changes to the NC GreenPower program tariffs. In summary, Duke states that the Renewable Advantage tariff is a voluntary program that will allow residential and small business customers to purchase renewable energy credits (RECs) to offset all or a portion of their electrical consumption. Duke requests that the Renewable Advantage tariffs be offered as a pilot program through 2024. Duke also requests changes to its NC GreenPower tariffs to concur with the program changes requested by NC GreenPower, including a change to the program to no longer offer RECs on a mass market basis and to use all funds to install solar generation at schools throughout North Carolina.

On November 26, 2018, NC GreenPower (NCGP) filed a revised program plan that coincided with Duke's proposed changes to the NCGP program. NCGP states that it has discussed the proposed changes with Duke for over a year and that the revised program plan has been approved by the Boards of Directors for NC GreenPower Corporation and NC Advanced Energy Corporation. On November 30, 2018, the North Carolina Utilities Commission - Public Staff (Public Staff) filed a Motion to Suspend Tariffs and Request Comments. On December 12, 2018, the Commission issued an order suspending the tariffs and requesting comments.

Following the filing of the Duke Renewable Advantage tariffs and NCGP's filings proposing revisions to its program plan, the Commission issued an order on February 1, 2019, modifying and approving Duke's Green Source Advantage Program (GSA), in Docket Nos. E-7, Sub 1169 and E-2, Sub 1170. As a result, on February 7, 2019, Duke filed a motion to withdraw its Renewable Advantage tariff applications stating that it was reviewing the Commission's order and reserved the right to refile the tariffs at a future time based on the Commission's stated willingness to "remain open to receiving from Duke a proposed REC-purchase program similar to" but "separate and apart from the GSA Program."

On April 18, 2019, Duke re-filed its applications for approval of the Renewable Advantage tariffs, as well as proposed changes to the NCGP program tariffs. In the filing, Duke states that the Company has made a few changes to the original tariff filing. Duke indicates that the Company is no longer proposing to offer the program as a time-limited pilot and has removed the termination date proposed for this offering. Duke explains that the tariff allows a customer to acquire multiple blocks in 250 kWh increments of RECs that could be sufficient to offset a portion or all of a customer's consumption. Duke further notes that for every REC purchased, the Company will donate \$2.00 to NC GreenPower. The tariff defines a REC as equal to 1,000 kWh produced from a renewable resource. Duke states that NCGP has indicated that it will seek revisions to its mass market program to no longer acquire RECs and will use all funds to install solar generation at schools throughout North Carolina.

On April 30, 2019, NCGP filed a revised program plan which contains most of the same requested changes as the November 26, 2018, filing with a few exceptions. NCGP's updated filing contains the following revisions:

- 1- The \$4.00 mass market (MM) product will not be terminated as previously filed; rather it will continue to be offered to non-Duke customers with some revisions such as: a- each donation will continue to support both North Carolina RECs and solar installation packages at K-12 schools, but not at the 50/50 split; b- a portion of each donation will support in-state RECs and the block size will increase from 50 kWh to 125 kWh; and c- the balance of each donation will continue to support solar projects at schools.
- 2- For Duke customers who currently donate to the \$4.00 MM product, the contributions will be changed to solely support Solar+ Schools and not REC

projects; these customers may “opt out” if they do not wish to support the schools initiative.

- 3- The block size for the \$2.50 LV REC for Clean Energy Supporters will increase from 100 kWh to 250 kWh.
- 4- NCGP’s Board of Directors may adjust grant amounts to schools depending on the type of solar system installed (top of pole versus roof-mounted) and the economic need of the school.

On June 5, 2019, the Commission issued an Order Seeking Comments regarding NCGP’s proposed changes with a June 26, 2019 deadline. On June 5, 2019, the Public Staff filed a letter in lieu of comments in response to the Commission’s Order addressing both the NCGP filing and Duke’s Requests for approval of its Renewable Advantage tariffs. In its filing, the Public Staff states it has reviewed NCGP’s filing, as well as the proposed Renewable Advantage tariffs and the revisions to Duke’s NC GreenPower Program tariffs. The Public Staff supports the NCGP program changes, including the changes to the Solar+ Schools program as presented by NCGP. The Public Staff also states that it does not object to the Commission’s approval of the Renewable Advantage tariffs and the revisions to the NC GreenPower Program tariffs. On June 21, 2019, Duke filed a letter in support of NCGP’s Solar+ Schools Program stating it will complement the Companies’ respective proposed Renewable Advantage Riders and offer electric customers multiple options with respect to their voluntary support of the development of renewable generation resources.

Based on the foregoing and the record, the Commission determines that Duke’s Renewable Advantage tariffs provide a REC purchase program that is separate and apart from the Green Source Advantage program. The Commission further finds that the Renewable Advantage tariffs will provide an option to customers that wish to offset a portion or all of their consumption. The Commission agrees with the Company that this offering may foster and promote the use of renewable attributes from renewable energy resources. The Commission notes that both NCGP and Duke agree to the changes requested by the other, and Duke has agreed to continue to offer the NC GreenPower program and the NC Renewable Energy program to those participants preferring the tax advantages and other attributes of these programs.

Accordingly, the Commission concludes that there is good cause to approve Duke’s Renewable Advantage tariffs, Duke’s proposed revisions to the NC GreenPower Program Rider GP tariffs, and NC GreenPower’s Revised Program Plan.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED as follows:

1. That the proposed Renewable Advantage Rider RA-1 tariffs filed by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC, are approved.

2. That the proposed revisions to the NC GreenPower Program Rider GP tariffs, filed by Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC, are approved.

3. That the Solar+ Schools Revised Program Plan filed by NC GreenPower is approved.

4. That NC GreenPower's Solar+ Schools program shall begin concurrently with the start of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC, and Duke Energy Progress, LLC's RECs program on or before January 1, 2020.

5. That Duke shall work with the Public Staff to prepare a notice to inform NC GreenPower tariff participants of Duke of these revisions and the options available and shall file that notice with the Commission within thirty (30) days.

ISSUED BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION.

This the 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019.

NORTH CAROLINA UTILITIES COMMISSION

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kimberley A. Campbell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K'.

Kimberley A. Campbell, Chief Clerk